



URBAN COUNTIES PROFILE

Prepared by Janell Hyer, Regional Labor Economist Supervisor, Idaho Commerce & Labor
317 W. Main, Boise, ID 83735 — (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220
E-mail: jhyer@cl.idaho.gov — Labor Market Information website: cl.idaho.gov/lmi

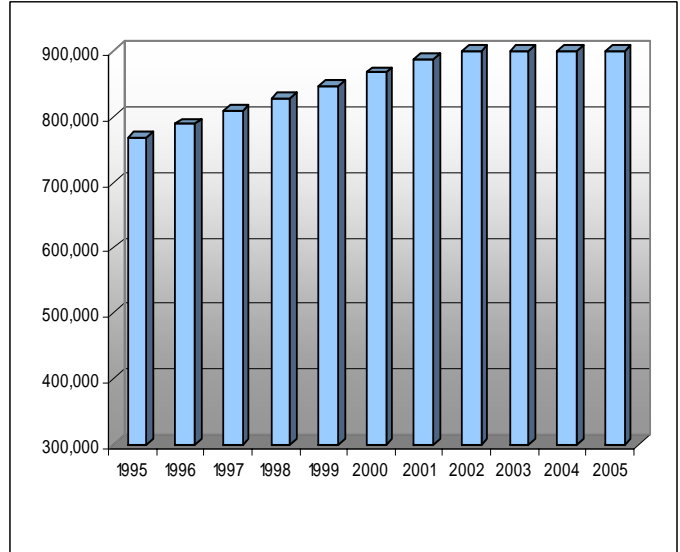
June 2006

Population

Urban Idaho is defined as those nine of Idaho's 44 counties that have cities with a population of 20,000 or more—Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon, Kootenai, Latah, Madison, Nez Perce and Twin Falls Counties. Urban Idaho is comprised of 10,194 square miles. The geography varies from high desert in the southern region to beautiful forests on rugged mountains in the north. In 1994 there were 73.3 persons per square mile. By 2004, that number had grown to 93.2 persons per square mile.

The 2004 population of the urban counties varies from Ada County with a population of 332,523 to Madison County with a population of 30,782. Canyon and Kootenai Counties have populations in excess of 100,000. Populations in Bannock, Bonneville and Twin Falls Counties fall in the range of 65,000 to 100,000 for each county. Latah County has the second smallest population of the urban counties at 35,169.

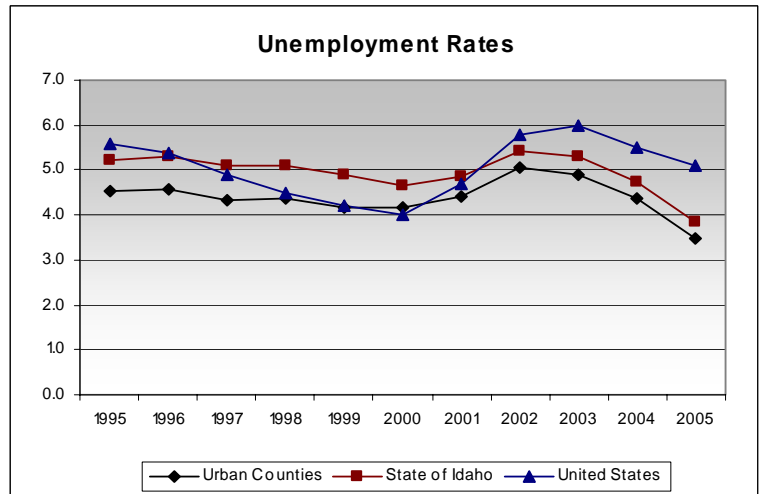
From 1994 to 2004, Idaho's urban population grew 27 percent, from 747,090 to 949,945, outpacing Idaho's population growth of 22 percent. The biggest percentage growth years for urban Idaho was from 1992 and 1994 when the urban population grew by 3.7 percent each year. The growth rate decreased to 2.6 percent in 1996. The strong growth in the early 1990s gave way to modest growth in the closing years of the 20th century. As the economy slowed in the early 2000s, so did the growth in population. However, from 2002 to 2003 the rate of growth in urban Idaho increased a tenth of a percent to 2.2 percent and two tenths more from 2003 to 2004; an additional 22,655 people were added from 2003 to 2004.



Labor Force & Employment

Growth in the labor force did not follow the population trend, as the *Civilian Labor Force* grew less than 2.0 percent in 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2004. The *Civilian Labor Force* is a count of people 16 years of age and older that live in Idaho and are either working or looking for work. This 10-year period began with a 2.6 percent growth rate from 1995 to 1996, and ended in 2005 with a sizeable 4.7 percent rate from the previous year. The largest increase in the labor force occurred from 2004 to 2005 when approximately 23,000 people were added to the civilian labor force. The increase in the labor force data was not just because of new residents, but also because an economic expansion occurred from 2002, providing more opportunities for Idaho's working age population.

The urban counties consistently had lower unemployment rates than the state during the past decade. The annual average unemployment rate for urban Idaho was also below the national rate with one exception, the year 2000 (in 1999 they were the same). Since 1995, the unemployment rate has declined in seven urban counties and increased in two. Urban counties experienced economic growth until 2001 and then again from 2003 to 2005. In 2000, the number of persons unemployed in urban counties was 18,916 with 436,389 persons employed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent. By 2002,



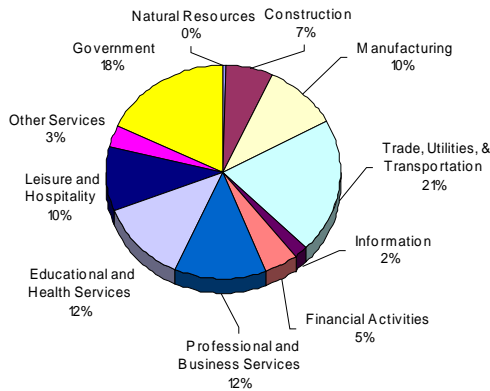
the number of unemployed had risen to 24,003 with 452,027 persons working, resulting in an unemployment rate of 5.0 percent. The number unemployed increased 27 percent because of a large number of layoffs, particularly in the electronics industry. The drop in the number of persons working in 2002 was the first since 2000.

The classification of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* changed in 2003 to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The pie chart and table on the other side of this page identify the new classifications and how they make up the economy of rural Idaho. It must be remembered that the number of nonfarm jobs is a count of jobs and not people. During the past 10 years, job gains have occurred primarily in *Retail Trade, Health Care & Social Assistance, Administrative & Support Services*, and *Local Government*.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	514,553	531,915
Total Employment	496,121	515,184
Unemployed	18,432	16,731
Urban Counties % Unemployed	3.6	3.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	405,441	415,904	432,068	446,482	452,808	455,305	467,881	476,029	481,822	489,178	516,198
Unemployment	18,445	19,065	18,759	19,552	18,847	18,916	20,726	24,003	23,682	21,381	18,045
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.4	5.0	4.9	4.4	3.5
Employment	386,996	396,839	413,309	426,930	433,961	436,389	447,155	452,027	458,141	467,797	498,154

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Covered Employment & Wages

In 2002, 28,862 private sector establishments provided 339,775 jobs in urban Idaho. This compares to 19,862 private sector establishments in 1992 with 231,793 jobs (an increase of 45 percent in the number of establishments and a 47 percent increase in jobs). The healthy economic conditions that existed in the mid-1990s contributed to this growth. However, between 2001 and 2002 there were 371 new establishments, an increase of 1.3 percent, while the number of new jobs decreased by 0.1 percent. The decrease was a reflection of the downturn in the economy, particularly the electronics sectors which are based in the urban areas.

The *Transportation, Utilities, & Transportation* sector has the largest number of jobs followed by *Government*. In 1992, the *Transportation, Utilities, & Transportation* industry comprised 22 percent of covered employment while *Government* jobs represented 19 percent. By 2002 the percentages had changed, with *Transportation, Utilities, & Transportation* comprising 20 percent of the jobs and *Government* dropping to 17 percent. *Education & Health Services* was the fastest growing industry at 77 percent. *Agriculture* was the only industry to show a loss at 1.0 percent.

The average covered wage increased by only 1.0 percent between 2001 and 2002. The average covered wage in 2002 was \$29,256. This was above the state average of \$28,161 and the rural average of \$24,907. The largest increase occurred in the *Professional & Business Services* sector.

Major Employers (Private)

Albertsons Inc.
American Microsystems, Inc.
Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC
Center Partners, Inc.
Direct TV Customer Services, Inc.
Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
Hewlett-Packard Co.
Idaho Power Co.
J. R. Simplot Co.
Melaleuca, Inc.
Micron Technology, Inc.
Potlatch Corp.
Sears Roebuck & Company
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Bookkeeper	\$7.75
Cashiers	\$6.72
Child Care Workers	\$7.00
Computer Tech	\$14.52
Customer Service Rep	\$9.00
Dental Assitant	\$10.21
Janitor & Cleaner	\$8.10
Laborer & Material Handler	\$6.66
Office Clerk	\$7.02
Registered Nurse	\$15.75
Salesperson, Retail	\$7.25
Secretary	\$9.62
Teacher	\$17.43
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$10.00
Waiter/Waitress	\$5.68

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	327,534	\$22,609	424,815	\$29,599	438,755	\$30,857
Agriculture	7,608	\$15,127	7,056	\$22,648	7,065	\$24,377
Mining	490	\$35,036	409	\$54,582	430	\$51,582
Construction	22,258	\$26,316	26,650	\$30,760	29,476	\$32,001
Manufacturing	44,007	\$31,722	45,831	\$42,170	45,457	\$44,153
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	72,219	\$20,128	85,272	\$26,499	87,365	\$27,591
Information	6,077	\$26,304	7,325	\$36,180	8,087	\$37,769
Financial Activities	17,023	\$24,202	20,626	\$35,733	21,320	\$36,534
Professional and Business Services	28,775	\$24,821	57,619	\$32,432	60,774	\$33,997
Educational and Health Services	30,414	\$23,631	49,478	\$30,241	51,767	\$31,245
Leisure and Hospitality	31,948	\$8,219	40,634	\$10,900	41,754	\$11,293
Other Services	9,494	\$15,336	11,267	\$20,256	11,428	\$20,887
Government	56,921	\$24,935	72,649	\$32,233	73,833	\$33,935

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Urban Counties	\$20,769	\$21,452	\$21,883	\$23,007	\$24,097	\$25,675	\$26,546	\$26,717	\$26,865	\$28,248
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau